GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1381
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2005
PRODUCTION OF RUBBER IN ORISSA
Majhi Shri Parsuram

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plantation and production of rubber has not made much progress in Orissa despite having favourable climatic condition and suitable soil of that State;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith action taken thereupon; and

(c) the new strategy proposed to be adopted by the Government to promote rubber plantation and production in that State?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a) & (b): Agro-climatic conditions in Orissa are on the whole only marginally suited for rubber. The Rubber Board initiated plantation activity on a trial basis during 1984-85 and now 480 hectare has been planted under rubber in the state and the total production of rubber during 2004-05 was 40 MT. Most of the plantations are immature and will start yielding only in coming years. Considering the fact that Orissa is a non-traditional region, the progress achieved so far can be considered as satisfactory.

(c): The Rubber Board established a Regional Research Station at Dhenkanal during 1987 to identify suitable clones and evolve appropriate agro-management practices suitable for Orissa. The Rubber Board promoted trial plantations in the districts of Mayurbanj, Ganjam and Dhenkanal which were found to be moderately suitable for rubber. It is now observed that Mayurbanj district is the best suitable area for rubber in Orissa. A block plantation project started in 1995 in Mayurbanj district has proved to be quite successful. As a strategy for future development it is proposed to promote block plantation projects in the State with the active participation of the beneficiaries and the State Government. The Board is also setting up group processing centres for the processing of latex besides providing training programmes for growers and arranging various expansion activities. The Government has recently approved the Rubber Plantation Development Scheme under which there are several programmes to promote cultivation of rubber in the State, particularly in the small holding sector.